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## DEATH OF COLONEL WILLIAM R. MORRISON.

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Colonel Morrison for many years was one of the foremost men in American politics, and was doubly interesting because of his prominence in Congress and his remarkable personal character, which seemed to impress with its energy and his honesty everybody with whom he came in contact.

He was chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, and as such represented the famous horizontal tariff bill. He was a member, and eventually chairman, of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He was a candidate in 1885 for the United States Senate in the great legislative battle at Springfield, out of which John A. Logan emerged with the toga on his shoulders. He was the man who said at that time that he would not shake the hand of a thief to be elected to any office in the gift of human power. He fought bravely in the civil war. He favored bi-metalism in 1896, and in 1901 he was granted a soldier's pension by the United States. He served nine terms in Congress.

John M. Palmer once said Colonel Morrison was one of the bravest men he ever knew. Of Colonel Morrison, Congressman Breckenridge said he was a "pure and gallant gentleman, brave of heart, clean of life, loyal to friend, frank to foe; with a consciousness void of offense and a love for truth that nothing could daunt."'

Among Colonel Morrison's friends, whom he particularly liked and with whom he loved to consort in intellectual pastime were Roger Q. Mills, William L. Wilson, John Randolph Tucker, Thomas B. Reed, and Thomas Francis Bayard. He had scores of minor friends and

admirers, but he preferred those to most others. He was noteworthy for his punctiliousness in matters of veracity and honor. He scorned a lie and a theft with the scorn of a cavalier.

Colonel Morrison was born in that part of St. Clair county which later became part of Monroe county, Illinois, September 14, 1825. It was only recently he learned of that. The precinct, Prairie du Long, in which he was born was ceded to Monroe by the State a year after his birth. He was the oldest son of Judge John Morrison, one of the early settlers of Illinois. After completing his school education in Waterloo he attended McKendree College at Lebanon. When twenty-two years of age he was chosen school treasurer. He entered the Mexican war and fought in the battle of Buena Vista. In 1849 he went to dig gold in California, and washed out \$8,000. He returned home, studied law, was admitted to the bar, and December 4, 1851, married Miss Mary I. Drury. He was clerk of Monroe county from 1852 to 1855, resigning to enter the Legislature, where he served until 1860. In 1857 his wife died, and he married Miss Elinora Horine, her half sister. She died five years ago.

In 1861, when thirty-six years old, he entered the Union army as colonel of the Forty-ninth Illinois Infantry, and was wounded at Fort Donelson. While serving in the field his district at home elected him to Congress, in which he sat from 1863 to 1865. In 1872 he was again elected and served continuously until 1887. That was the old eighteenth district now the twenty-second district. In that year President Cleveland appointed him a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission, for five years, at the end of which time he was reappointed, and then, upon the retirement of Judge Thomas M. Cooley, he succeeded that jurist in the place of chairman.

Colonel Morrison was several times mentioned for the presidency, especially while he was a member of Congress. He never liked Blackburn, of Kentucky, who on one of these occasions said if Colonel Morrison were

elected President there would be more gruff manners and honesty in the White House than ever before. Now, the famous Illinoisan was the pink of politeness, and, although he felt flattered by part of Mr. Blackburn's remark, he felt offended by the remainder of it.

But the Kentuckian probably had in mind Morrison's directness of speech and his habitual use of Anglo-Saxon words which made his conversation or his public speeches quite telling, very like hammer blows, coming quickly and distinctly.

Colonel Morrison was not only a Democrat practically so called, but was a Democrat socially so called. He lived in the simplest imaginary style. He detested the fineries of dress, the "agonies" of the dinner table and the extravagances of convention. It was not necessary to send cards or names in order to see him during his official residence in Washington or at any other time. He liked simplicity.

Defeated in 1885 for the Senate by only one vote, Colonel Morrison never quite gave up the hope of representing his State in the Senate. He was always ready to think about going to the Senate. He said to Walter Q. Gresham soon after the latter went over to the Democrats, "You will never come to the Senate while I am alive. There are too many Democrats ahead of you."

In February, 1896, Mr. Morrison was conspicuously mentioned as a presidential possibility, but, although this was the last time his name was used in this way, his dream of Presidential honors had been a long and a vivid one.

In a recent interview with the Globe-Democrat correspondent he advised young men to stay out of politics. He said the world is full of them and the end means little success.

Colonel Morrison had resided in Waterloo forty-eight years. One sister, Mrs. Louise Wilson, lives there. Since his wife's death he resided alone. Lately his eye sight failed and it became necessary for him to have some one read the papers to him.